

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending herein, claim 1 being independent. By the amendment above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5, including the limitations of intermediate dependent claims 2 and 4. Accordingly claims 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claim 3 has also been amended to depend from amended claim 1, since claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,690,087 (Kobayashi, *et al.*); claims 3-4 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kobayashi, *et al.* in view of United States Published Patent Application No. 2002/0,153,532 (Sonobe, *et al.*); and claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of Kobayashi, *et al.* in view of Sonobe, *et al.* and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,802,745 (Loddenkoetter). The applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's rejections and the reasons provided in support thereof, and respectfully submit that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the combination of references upon which the Examiner has relied.

The following summary of the invention is taken from the specification, and is provided for the Examiner's convenience only, and is not intended to argue any limitations not present in the claims.

The invention herein is a power semiconductor module for mounting on a flat body. The inventive module includes a plurality of partial modules, each of which includes at least two open-slotlike recesses therein. The open slotlike recesses are positioned so that when the partial modules are assembled, the recesses in adjacent partial modules face one another to form closed

slots. This differs from the configuration of modules shown in the references applied by the Examiner.

Kobayashi, *et al.* show a power semiconductor module that may include a plurality of partial modules (substrates 8) placed adjacent one another (*see* Fig. 8a). However, substrates 8 lack any open-slotlike recesses therein which align when two partial modules are assembled adjacent one another to form a closed slot. Although the Examiner has asserted that these open slotlike recesses are shown in Kobayashi, *et al.*, no specific reference to any similar element is offered. Inspection of the substrates 8 illustrated in Fig. 8a of Kobayashi, *et al.* demonstrates that every aperture which may be classified as a “recess” therein forms a closed recess along the sides of the partial substrates 8. Without such open-slotlike recesses, Kobayashi, *et al.* are completely incapable of assembling adjacent *open* recesses to form a *closed* slot.

Neither of the other references applied by the Examiner were cited for the showing of such open slotlike recess, and neither reference discloses such a recess.

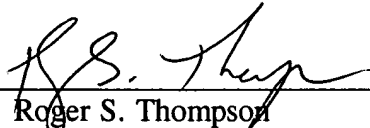
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the references applied by the Examiner, either taken alone or in any combination. Early and favorable action on the application is therefore respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no further fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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